



Snohomish County

## **Point-in-Time Count Summary**

**For the night of January 23, 2017**

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## Section I: Introduction

The local Point-in-Time count (PIT) has been conducted on a single night in January annually since 2006. This should be considered an indicator of overall trends and not an exhaustive census of homeless persons in Snohomish County.

The PIT consists of a sheltered<sup>1</sup> count which assesses how many persons are staying in homeless housing, in addition to an unsheltered<sup>2</sup> count. Trained volunteer survey takers, working in pairs, utilize surveys to conduct the unsheltered count. These volunteers visit encampments, food banks, community resource locations, and known areas where persons experiencing homelessness congregate. As in previous years, the county was divided into four quadrants with each survey taker working in only one defined area. Survey collection is overseen by an experienced housing and homeless service agency staff referred to as the Lead for each quadrant. Volunteer survey takers typically commit to three hour shifts between 8:00am and 8:00pm in a quadrant of their choosing, with Leads ensuring adequate coverage. Individuals contacted by volunteers have the option to decline an interview and are thus not counted.

A sheltered count is generated through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database into which agencies continuously enter client level data about persons in homeless projects, such as emergency shelter. Non HMIS-participating sheltered programs are also contacted for inclusion.

PIT count results, along with other data and information, help inform the Everett/Snohomish County Continuum of Care plan for addressing needs and making progress toward goals to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness.

## Data Quality Methodology

To prevent double counting of individuals, the first two letters of the first and last name, along with a middle initial and a date of birth were logged for each person at the time of survey. For persons who did not wish to provide their date of birth, volunteers were asked to estimate age for the purpose of determining whether respondent was an adult or child.

There are essential data elements to validate a survey and include the information in the annual count. Surveys were excluded if they lacked at least one of these elements:

- No “date of birth” – adult or child status could not be determined for **7** persons.
- No “last night city” – **15** respondents did not report last night’s city or stayed in a city outside of Snohomish County the night prior.
- Not “unsheltered” – **34** surveyed were already included in the HMIS sheltered count.

Additionally, County staff visited all staging locations to collect completed paper survey forms as volunteers returned from their shifts. Employees from Snohomish County Human Services then entered all surveys into a secure database for further auditing and analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sheltered* – spent the night prior to survey in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

<sup>2</sup> *Unsheltered* – spent the night prior to the survey on the streets, in an abandoned building, a tent, car, or other place not meant for human habitation.

## Point-in-Time (PIT) Fact Sheet

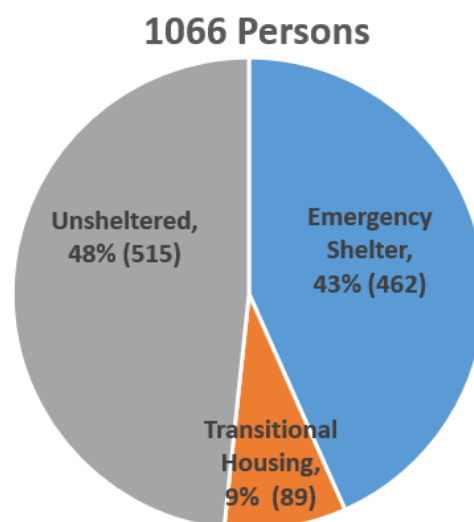
Final analysis of the Point in Time Count revealed that on the night of January 23, 2017, **1066** persons did not have a permanent place to stay the night prior. These numbers include **462** persons in emergency shelters, **89** staying in transitional housing, and **515** who were unsheltered.

### Age Ranges

- Unsheltered persons surveyed ranged in age from **7 months to 76 years** old.
- Sheltered clients were between **44 days and 75 years** on the night of the PIT.
- Unsheltered persons had an average age of **38**, sheltered clients averaged **31** years old.

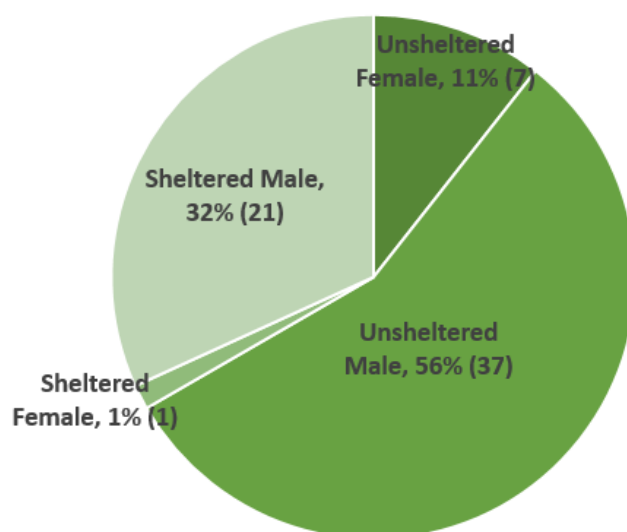
### Basic Demographics

- 93.6% (**482 of 515**) of all unsheltered persons were adults.<sup>3</sup>
- 95.6% (**462 of 482**) adults surveyed were without children.
- A majority (61%) of households surveyed stayed out of doors the night prior. Others reported sheltering in a vehicle (34%) or in an abandoned building (5%).



### Veteran Demographics

- **44** unsheltered veterans were surveyed.
- **22** veterans were staying in emergency shelter.
- Homeless veterans were typically in their 40s, Caucasian, and male.
- **8** unsheltered female veterans were surveyed.



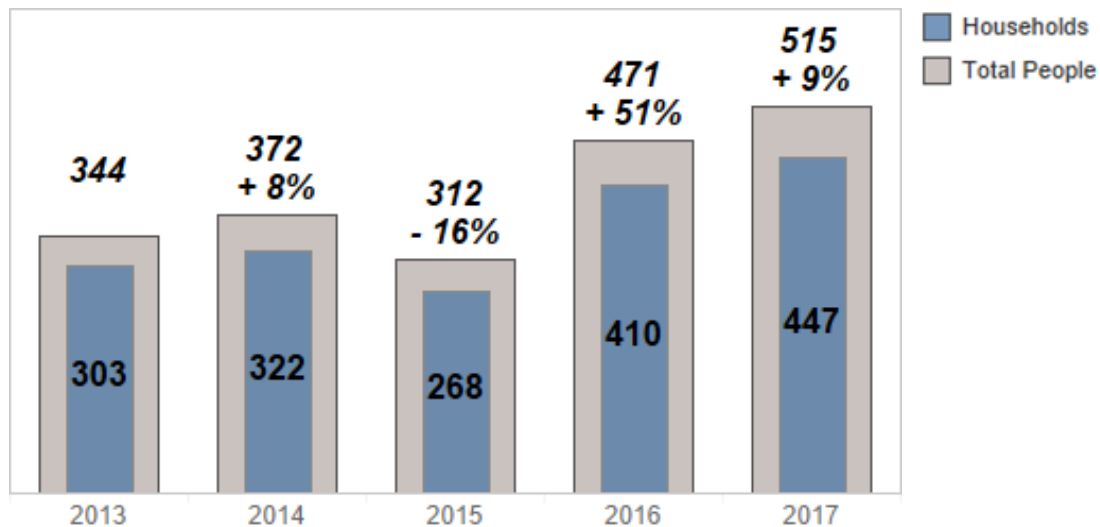
<sup>3</sup> Adults - Persons above the age of 18, regardless of household composition.

## Section II: Unsheltered Summary, 2017 PIT Count Data

The annual count is used as a tool to help Continuums of Care better understand the circumstances that caused a housing crisis and provide adequate services for those who are not already enrolled in homeless housing programs. By collecting quality data, action to reduce homelessness can be undertaken while also measuring the performance of services offered.

### Unsheltered

Snohomish County has experienced an overall increase of **50%** in unsheltered homeless persons surveyed since 2013, from **344** to **515**. In 2017, there was a **9%** increase over 2016. The number of households has grown proportionally from 303 in 2013, to 447 in 2017.



### Families<sup>4</sup>

Persons in families equaled 8.5% of survey respondents (3.1% of households). Of the **14** families identified in the unsheltered count, **11** had spent the previous night sleeping in a vehicle.

### Individuals<sup>5</sup>

89.3% of the unsheltered population were persons in households with only adults. 60% slept out of doors, while 32% slept in a vehicle.

### Unaccompanied Children<sup>6</sup> & Young Adults<sup>7</sup>

There were **9** unaccompanied children with an additional **57** unaccompanied young adults who completed a survey. These two populations were typically white, non-Hispanic males. One young adult identified as transgender. Of the total **66** youth and young adults, **37** were chronically homeless.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Family – household with at least one adult and at least one minor child.

<sup>5</sup> Individuals – households without children, may be comprised of one or more adults.

<sup>6</sup> Unaccompanied child – person 12-17 years of age without a guardian present and living on their own.

<sup>7</sup> Unaccompanied young adult – person 18-24 without children who are not presenting for services or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian.

<sup>8</sup> Chronically homeless – person with a disabling condition who has either experienced homelessness continuously for longer than a year, or experienced four episodes of homelessness in the last three years with those episodes totaling more than 12 months.

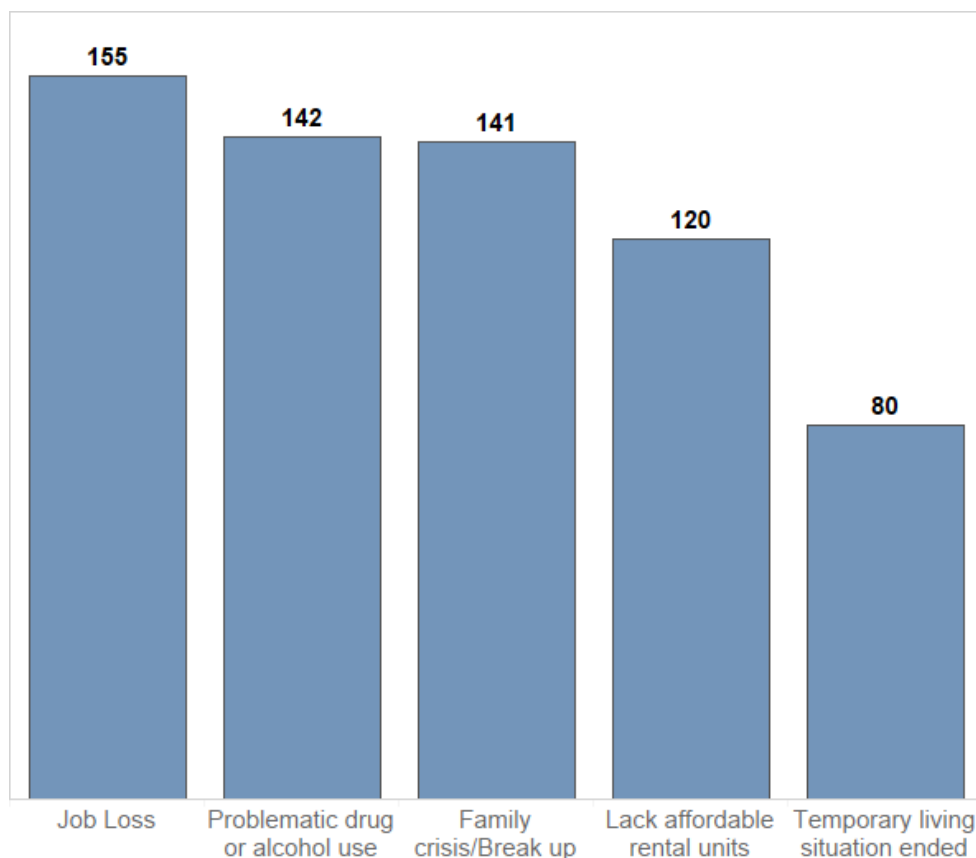
## Reasons for Homelessness

Respondents were asked to identify the factors which contributed to their household becoming homeless. Unlike previous surveys, responses were not limited to the “top three.” Instead, households were asked to provide all relevant factors and then identify the main reason. Thus households may have potentially identified between one and twenty-two factors which led to a housing crisis.

New local response options for 2017 were *“lack of affordable rental units”* and *“have not yet qualified for or not yet receiving a cash benefit.”*

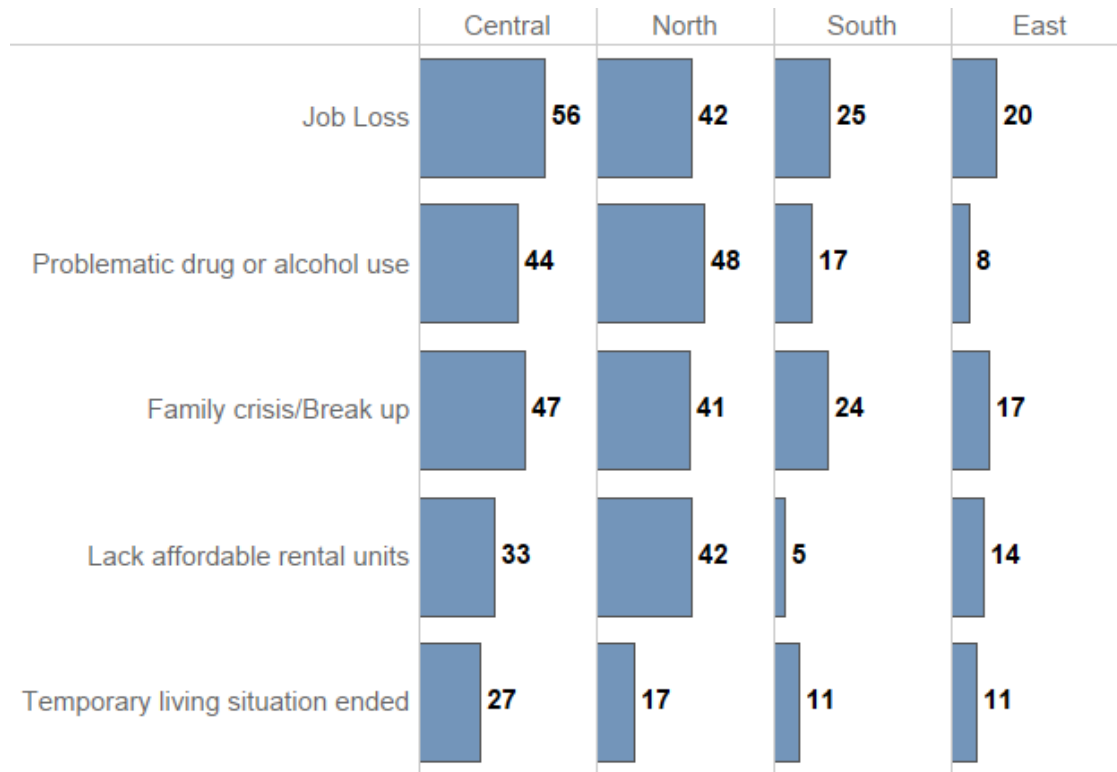
Additionally, the response type “refugee/undocumented immigrant” from previous years was divided into four options; *“relocated from another state,” “relocated from a US territory,” “refugee,”* and *“undocumented immigrant.”* This update was made to better identify and respond to local need.

When all responses are counted and combined across all quadrants, **job loss** stands out as the most frequent response in Snohomish County. The top five reasons for all households combined, county-wide are shown below.



### Reasons for Homelessness by Quadrant

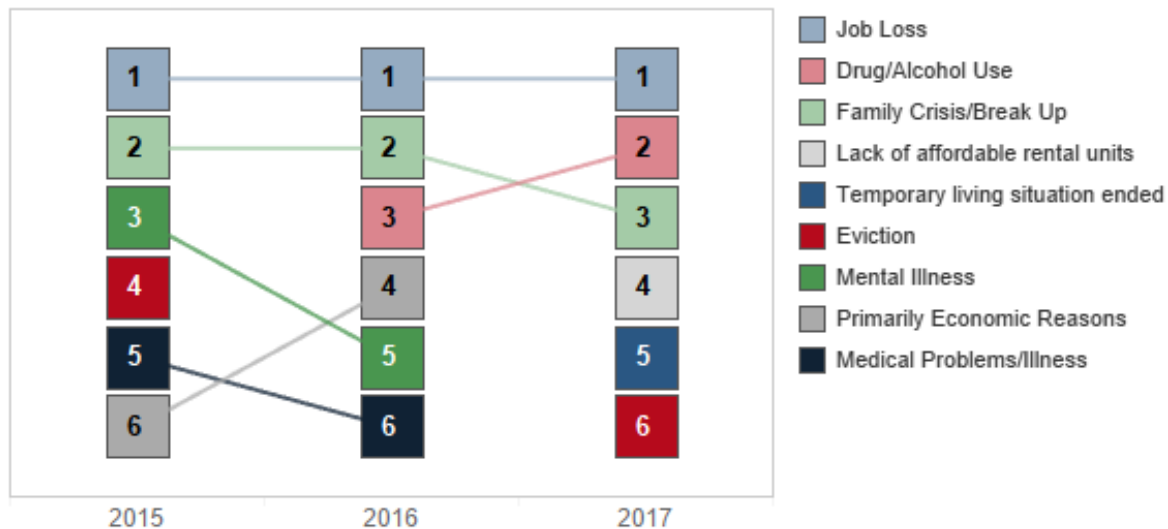
While job loss was the most frequent response from all households combined county-wide, percentage share of the top response types differ slightly by quadrant. Of 22 possible response options, the same 5 were most frequently cited in each quadrant.



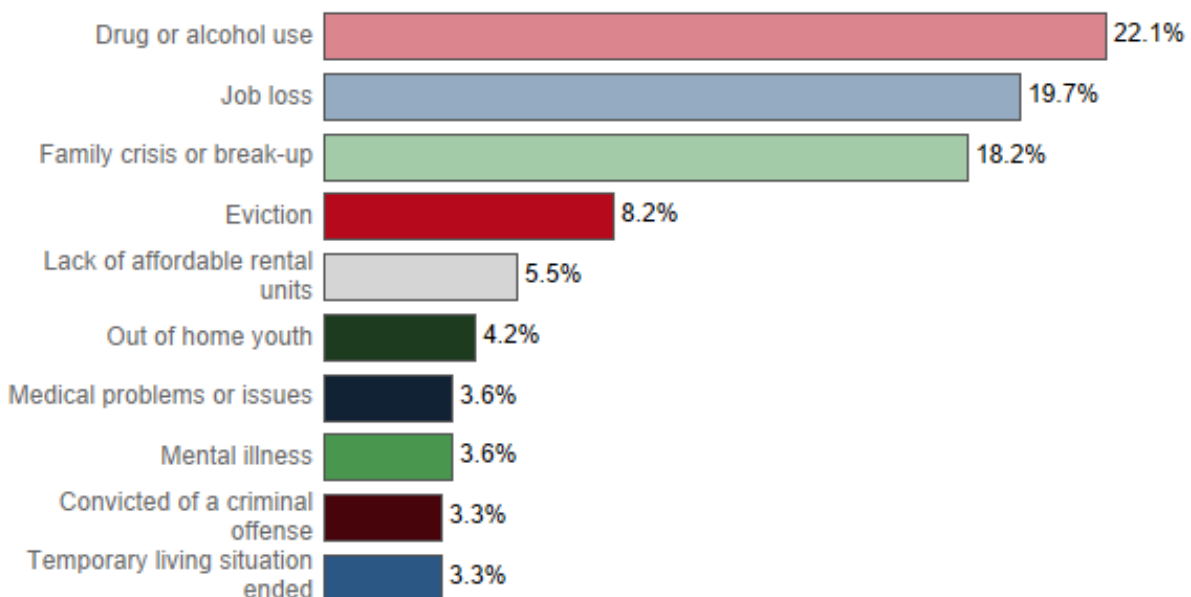
The *Central Quadrant* had 207 of 367 (**56%**) total responses to this question comprising the top five. Likewise; *North* had 190 of 332 responses (**57%**), *South* 82 of 122 (**67%**), and *East Quadrants* 70 of 119 (**59%**) within the majority 5 responses.

Job loss is also historically the most reported reason for a housing crisis among unsheltered households as seen below. Other reasons such as drug/alcohol use, mental illness, and family crisis/break up appear in the top most reasons year-after-year.

## Reasons for Homelessness 2015-2017



However, when respondents were asked to identify a **primary cause in 2017**, drug or alcohol use rises to the top over job loss and family crisis. Of the 447 total households surveyed, 85.4% (382) cited a primary cause.



N = 382  
Answers < 3% not shown here.



## Disabling Conditions

Of the 482 unsheltered adults surveyed, **355** (73.7%) reported at least one disabling condition. The box to the right shows the number of times a condition was reported, either alone or in tandem with one or more others conditions.

Chronic Physical Illness	172
Developmental Disability	95
HIV/AIDS	13
Serious Mental Illness	165
Substance Abuse	246

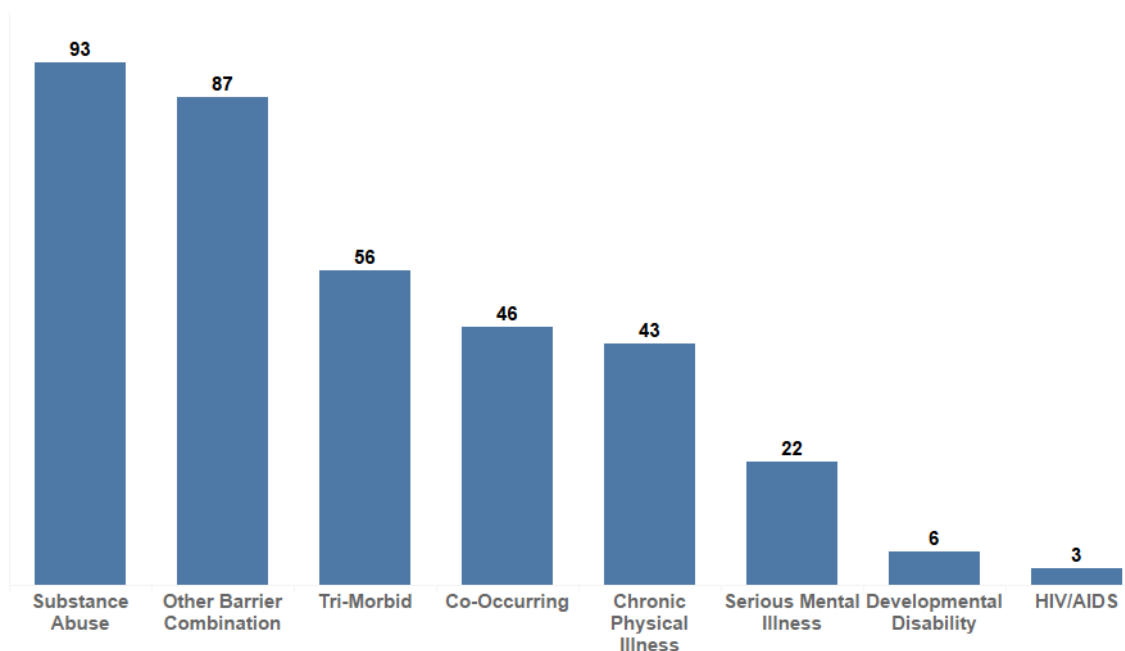
Across the survey, **167** adults reported one singular disabling condition. A further **98** reported concurrent conditions. Within that grouping, **32** persons qualify as having a co-occurring disorder<sup>9</sup>.

Additionally, **62** adults reported a combination of three conditions. Of that grouping, **12** were co-occurring and **28** were tri-morbid<sup>10</sup>.

Four conditions were rare with **27** persons reporting this to be the case, of those **one** person reported a co-occurring disorder.

**One** person reported 5 conditions and was also tri-morbid while sleeping out of doors.

Number of Adult Respondents



<sup>9</sup> Co-occurring disorder – diagnosed as having both mental health and substance abuse issues.

<sup>10</sup> Tri-morbid – diagnosed with a combination of mental health, substance abuse, and physical health issues.

## Previous Night Stay and Last City of Permanent Residence

For unsheltered households who were surveyed, 35.7% (**184**) reported spending the previous night in Everett. Of that group, **53.3%** (98) reported Everett as their last place of permanent residence. Data collected are limited by several factors, including but not limited to:

- The extent to which volunteers were able to locate persons experiencing homelessness.
- Willingness of homeless participants to answer survey questions
- Volunteers' understanding of the question they are asking and the respondents understanding of the questions they are answering. No definition is provided to respondents regarding how "city of last permanent residence" is defined aside from an area lived in for six consecutive months. Answers vary by respondents' interpretation of that and other terms within the survey.

Completeness of answers did improve over the 2016 survey wherein 98 out of 410 households (23.9% households) did not answer this question or provide enough detail to determine last permanent residency that year. This year, only 16 persons out of 515 (**3.1%** persons) could not determine where their last permanent residence was located.

When an unclear answer was given in regard to last city of permanent residence or previous night stay, HMIS staff performed research to determine municipal bounds. For example, if a respondent had said, "Silver Lake area" as last permanent residence, this significant landmark and surrounding neighborhood is within the boundaries of south Everett and would be counted as such.

		Where was your last permanent residence?																Grand Total	
		Arlington*	Balance of State	Edmonds	Everett	Gold Bar**	Granite Falls	Lake Stevens	Lynnwood	Marysville	Mill Creek	Monroe	Mountlake Terrace	Mukilteo	Other US State	Outside the US	Snohomish		Unknown
Where did you sleep last night?	Arlington*	24	15		11		6	4		7	1				4		2	1	75
	Everett	3	21		98		2	8	6	8	1	3		2	16	3	7	6	184
	Marysville	3	16		17	1	1		4	33			2		4		1	3	85
	Edmonds		2	2					2										6
	Gold Bar**		1	1	2	12						3			1		1		21
	Granite Falls		2				37								1				40
	Lake Stevens						2	3											5
	Lynnwood		9	1					19			1			3			5	38
	Monroe		6		2	3			1			17			3		6		38
	Mountlake Terrace		1						1	1									3
Snohomish		1		3		5	1		2							7	1	20	
Grand Total		30	74	4	133	16	53	16	33	51	2	24	2	2	32	3	24	16	515

\*Stanwood and Darrington are included within the Arlington count. \*\* Sultan, Startup, and Index are included within the Gold Bar count.

For comparison of general County population trends, data from the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) was consulted. The last US Census Bureau public data set for estimated city population was from 2010 and thus was not used.

The last available public data set are from the OFM Forecasting and Research Division, April 2016 estimates of population<sup>11</sup>. Metropolitan areas were then compared against the approximate PIT city areas to demonstrate where homeless populations were disproportionately found (percentages are rounded up). Not all jurisdictional areas of the county are included on the table below.

Jurisdiction	2016 Population Estimate	Percent of Total County Population	PIT Percentage Share	PIT Count
Arlington	26,605	3.4%	14.6%	75
Everett	108,300	14.0%	35.7%	184
Edmonds	42,235	5.5%	1.2%	6
Gold Bar	7,150	0.9%	4.1%	21
Granite Falls	3,395	0.4%	7.8%	40
Lake Stevens	30,900	4.0%	1.0%	5
Lynnwood	36,590	4.7%	7.4%	38
Marysville	64,940	8.4%	16.5%	85
Monroe	18,120	2.3%	7.4%	38
Mountlake Terrace	21,090	2.7%	0.6%	3
Snohomish	9,625	1.2%	3.9%	20
Snohomish County	772,860			515

The largest number of persons are concentrated in Everett given the centralized location on the Interstate 5 corridor, proximity to goods or services, infrastructure, and status as county seat. Everett is the seventh largest city in Washington and the fifth largest in the Puget Sound. The Office of Financial Management in their 2016 report<sup>12</sup> states that Snohomish County accounted for **12%** of the total population growth in the state.

### PIT Count versus County Population

As the west side of the state continues to attract employment opportunities and development, Snohomish County as the third most populous county will likely remain one of the fastest growing centers in Washington. Assuming a continued 2.0% annual county population gain in 2017, this table uses Office Financial Management estimates from 2013 – 2016 contrasted against the local unsheltered PIT count. The unsheltered percent change from 2013 to 2017 is **+49.7%**.

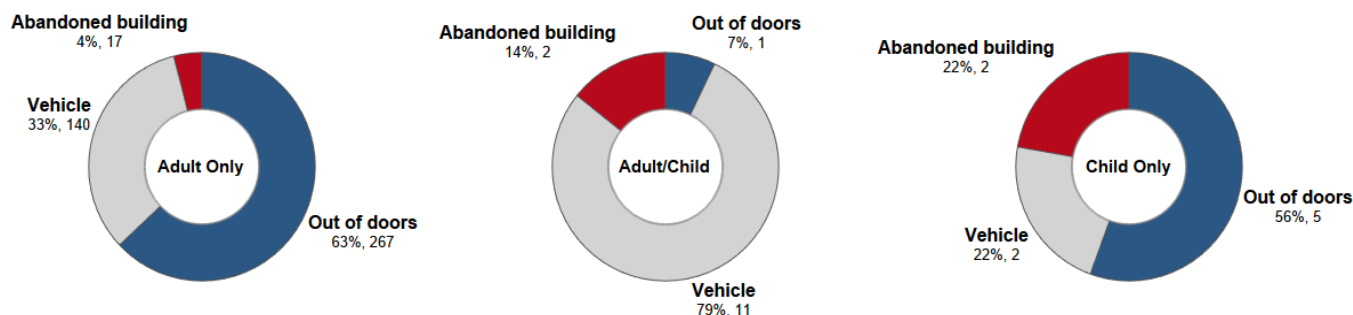
	County Population (est.)	Unsheltered Count	% of County Population Unsheltered	Unsheltered Percent Change
2017	788,317	515	0.065%	9.34%
2016	772,860	471	0.061%	50.96%
2015	757,600	312	0.041%	-16.13%
2014	741,000	372	0.050%	8.14%
2013	730,500	344	0.047%	0.00%

<sup>11</sup> April 1, 2016 Population of Cities, Towns and Counties Used for Allocation of Selected State Revenues. Retrieved from [http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/ofm\\_april1\\_population\\_final.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/ofm_april1_population_final.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> State of Washington 2016 Population Trends. Retrieved from <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/poptrends.pdf>

## Previous Night Stay

Unsheltered respondents were asked where they stayed on the night of January 23rd, such as on the street, in a tent, an abandoned building, or a vehicle. When accounting for all households, the majority (**61%**) of households and persons stayed out of doors the night prior. However when this question is filtered by household type among unsheltered populations, the responses of where households stayed the night noticeably changes.



Adult-only households overwhelmingly slept out of doors.

Whereas households with children under the care of an adult did not sleep out of doors, rather they trended toward staying inside a vehicle. This statistic is limited due to the small sample size of **14** total households with children.

Unaccompanied children below the age of 18, given their further limited resources and life experience, appear to seek shelter wherever available. This population size is small with **9** households. Data from completed surveys cannot account for unaccompanied children who are able to temporarily stay with a friend or other rooming situation.

## PIT Weather Data

The 2017 PIT count night was colder and drier than previous years. This table compares historical temperature data against the local total unsheltered count.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) archived data was consulted for three sites – Arlington Municipal Airport (KAWO), Paine Field Everett (KPAE), and the city of Monroe.

PIT Count	City	Mean Temp	High Temp	Low Temp
2017 - 515 persons	Everett	38.00	44.00	32.00
	Arlington	35.00	48.00	22.00
	Monroe	36.00	44.00	28.00
2016 - 471 persons	Everett	48.50	53.00	44.00
	Arlington	48.50	55.00	42.00
	Monroe	44.50	49.00	40.00
2015 - 312 persons	Everett	45.00	48.00	42.00
	Arlington	45.00	51.00	39.00
	Monroe	48.50	54.00	43.00
2014 - 372 persons	Everett	40.00	43.00	37.00
	Arlington	37.00	44.00	30.00
	Monroe	38.00	47.00	29.00
2013 - 344 persons	Everett	42.00	50.00	34.00
	Arlington	40.50	46.00	35.00
	Monroe	42.50	48.00	37.00

## Unsheltered Demographics

Responses shown are as the client self-identifies. For the 2017 PIT, HUD replaced the “Other” gender option with “Does not identify as Male, Female, or Transgender”.

Male	334	64.9%
Female	175	34.0%
Does not identify as F, M, or T	3	0.6%
Unknown gender	2	0.4%
Transgender	1	0.2%
Grand Total	515	100.0%

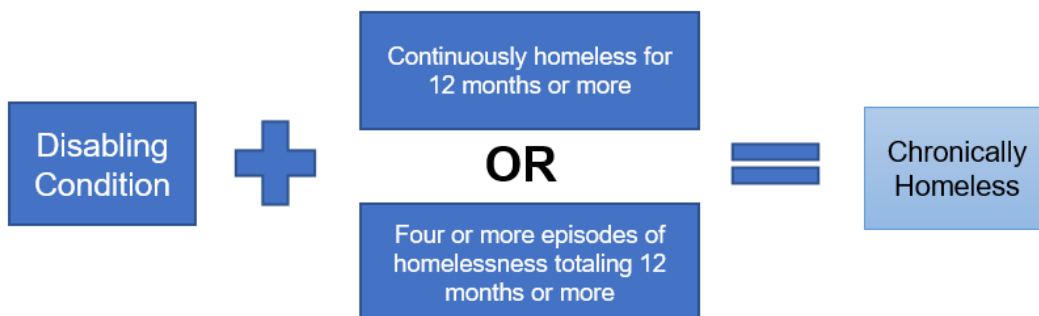
## Snohomish County Census Demographics

The last national census was completed in 2010, with the next scheduled for 2020. Though the United States Census Bureau publishes some estimated demographic data for non-census years. A comparison of condensed 2017 unsheltered data, versus the 2010 complete census, 2014, and 2015 census estimates are displayed here. Percentages are rounded to nearest tenths.

Race & Ethnicity	Snohomish County Census			Unsheltered 2017
	2010	2014	2015	
Caucasian	78.4%	80.2%	78.8%	77.3%
Native American	1.4%	1.6%	1.0%	7.0%
African American	2.6%	3.1%	2.6%	4.7%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	2.3%
Asian	8.9%	10.2%	9.5%	1.4%
Multi-Racial	4.6%	4.4%	5.3%	5.6%
Unknown race	3.8%			1.8%
Hispanic	9.0%		9.5%	7.0%
Non-Hispanic	91.0%		90.5%	85.1%
Unknown ethnicity				7.6%

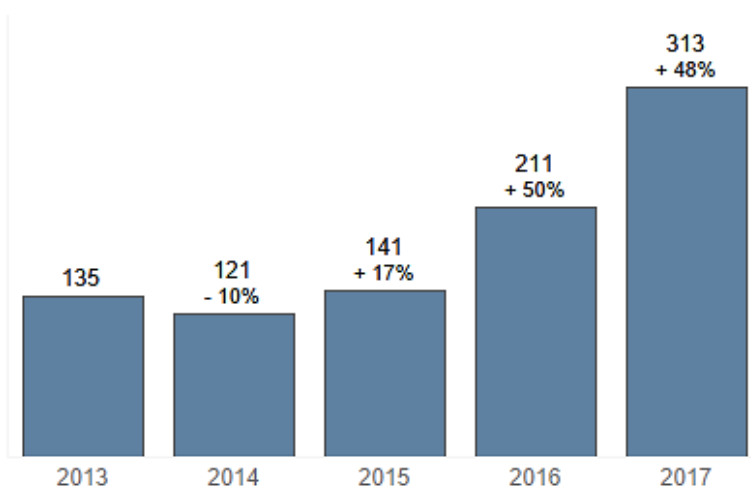
## Chronic Homelessness

The number of households that are experiencing long periods of homelessness (a total of 12 or more months continuously or four separate occasions totaling 12 months over the last three years) as well as having one or more members with at least one disabling condition has increased from 113 to **262** (132%) since 2013. During this same period, unsheltered homelessness has increased 50%.



This type of homelessness is considered to be chronic,<sup>13</sup> and the strategies to intervene are more complex than for those assisting a household experiencing homelessness for the first time. In 2017, there were **313** chronically homeless persons in 262 households.<sup>14</sup> It is important to note that the unsheltered chronic homeless number is based on self-report. This portion of the survey is broken into several pieces to assist the respondent in providing accurate information to the best of their ability.

Total people in households with a chronic homeless person



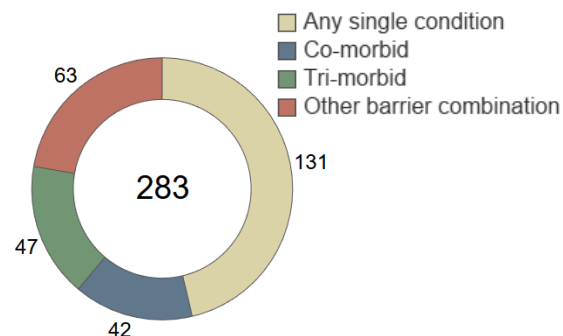
There were nineteen children living in chronically homeless households with a parent or guardian. Another five minor children were unaccompanied and experiencing chronic homelessness.

<sup>13</sup> *Chronically homeless individual* – someone with a disability who has been homeless (streets, vehicle, abandoned building, shelter, etc.) continuously for at least 12 months or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months.

<sup>14</sup> HUD provided updated guidance for this year's Point-in-Time count. Now if the adult or youth head of household qualifies as chronically homeless, then *all* persons in the household should be counted as chronically homeless, regardless of whether or not the other household members are also disabled.

### Chronically Homeless – Multiple Barriers

Of the 313 persons in households with a chronically homeless person, **283** of those persons were an adult member or head of household with a disabling condition. Surveys returned reveal that 46% (**131**) had one disabling condition and 54% (**152**) had more than one disabling condition. This is significantly higher than the overall unsheltered population in which 74% (355 of 481) adults report a disabling condition.



### Why Barriers Matter

Collecting information about co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders can drive system-wide treatment planning and targeted strategies to eliminate homelessness.

Individuals with behavioral health co-morbidity and tri-morbidity (co-morbid with chronic medical) have complexities that need to be addressed differently than those of individuals struggling with a single disorder or disability. Long term chronic homelessness is more often than not an indicator of the presence of co/tri-morbid conditions. The complexities that these individuals present call out the need for flexible, collaborative approaches and higher levels of support for outcomes to be successful.

### What is being done to end chronic homelessness?

While the number of chronically homeless individuals continues to grow, so has the efficiency and effectiveness of Snohomish County's response.

### Prioritizing Inventory

Over the past several years, housing agencies have been coming together to increase their commitment to ending chronic homelessness. Increasing inventory, either by applying for new rental assistance projects or building new affordable housing units which takes time. The community has pursued those solutions as opportunities have arisen, and in 2016 there was a net gain of **32** Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds.

Agencies have restructured program eligibility for openings to prioritize persons with the highest barriers and longest lengths of time homeless. These programs pair housing units with intensive services which have proven to be instrumental in creating and maintaining housing stability. In PSH alone, **101** people were housed during 2016, up from 42 in 2015. By July 2017, an additional **466** currently-occupied beds are dedicated to be filled with individuals experiencing chronic homelessness as they become available, which is anticipated to be at a rate of approximately **80** beds each year.

### Diversifying response

Another significant housing resource being utilized is Rapid Rehousing (RRH). This model works to quickly connect households to permanent housing with tailored services which may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. When RRH was initially implemented nationwide, providers looked for lower barrier households needing little intervention to stabilize. However, there is growing evidence that households with multiple and complex barriers can also attain and maintain housing using this model.

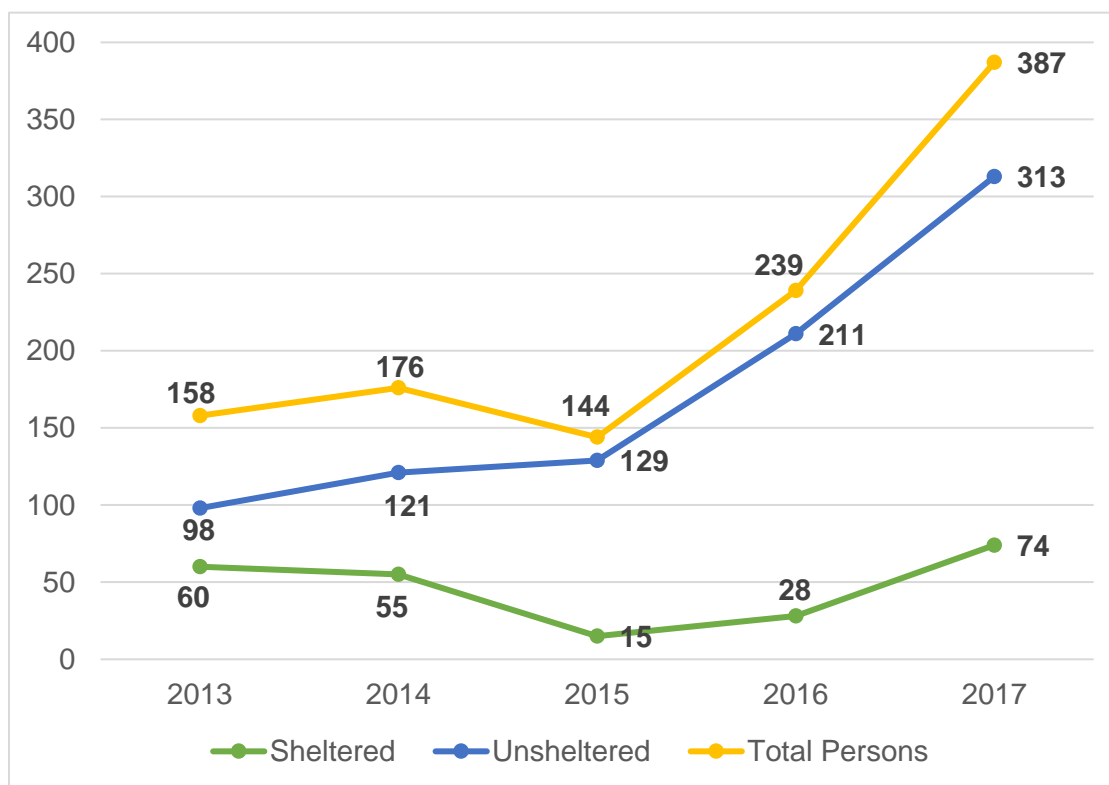
While in RRH, households retain eligibility for permanent supportive housing. If, after being housed, there is need for intensive and ongoing services and a PSH unit becomes available, their housing stability can continue beyond the time when the limited subsidy would have ended. During 2016, **132** people experiencing chronic homelessness were enrolled in RRH projects; **59** people have secured permanent housing utilizing this model thus far.

#### Increasing use of evidence-based practices

As resources are increasingly focused on persons with the longest history of homelessness, most vulnerable and highest barriers, service providers are participating in capacity building to implement best practices. One example is the Rapid Rehousing Provider group that meets regularly to participate in training on topics such as helping people without financial resources reach self-sufficiency, motivational interviewing, supported employment, negotiating with landlords, and dispute resolution skills.

As a result of these changes, in 2016 there was a **151%** increase (77 to 193) over the previous year in the number of chronically homeless persons successfully placed in permanent housing for homeless persons within the homeless housing system. Continued implementation of these strategies over time will continue to enhance community response and consequently reduce homelessness in Snohomish County.

#### Chronically Homeless Persons – 5 Year Trend



For the 2017 Point in Time Count, HUD clarified that if one adult or youth head of a household qualified as chronically homeless, then all persons in the household should be counted as chronically homeless.



## Section III: Sheltered Summary, 2017 PIT Count Data

A sheltered count is generated through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database into which agencies continuously enter client-level data about persons in emergency shelter<sup>15</sup> and transitional housing.<sup>16</sup> Non HMIS-participating sheltered programs are also contacted for inclusion. Snohomish County Human Services is the Continuum of Care lead for this region and oversees the administration, compliance, and data quality for this software platform.<sup>17</sup>

### Populations of Interest

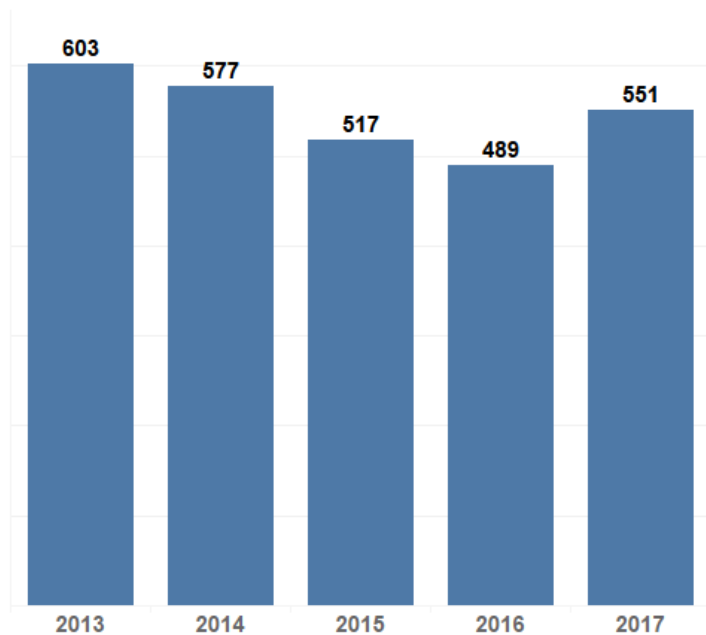
**241** Individuals

**74** Chronically Homeless Persons

**22** Veterans

**8** Living with HIV/AIDS

Sheltered Persons



<sup>15</sup> *Emergency shelter* – any facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless for 90 days or less.

<sup>16</sup> *Transitional housing* – A type of supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. Generally, homeless persons may live in transitional housing for up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures, at one site or in scattered sites.

<sup>17</sup> *HMIS Requirements*. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/hmis-requirements/>

## Sheltered Demographics

Unlike the unsheltered counts, collection of self-identified race and ethnicity information have been a required HMIS data element since July 2004. Clients are permitted to refuse to identify, as seen in the case of three persons who reported their ethnicity but not race. A comparison of sheltered programs is readily available by combining data from HMIS and surveys from non-HMIS participating programs. Responses are shown as a distinct count of persons enrolled on the night of the Point-in-Time count.

### Emergency Shelter Demographic Breakout

		Caucasian	Native American	African American	Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Multi-Racial	Client refused	Grand Total
<b>Male</b>	Hispanic	28		2			2	1	33
	Non-Hispanic	156	4	37	9	1	14		221
<b>Female</b>	Hispanic	38	3	3			5	1	50
	Non-Hispanic	114	2	16	5		20		157
<b>Transgender</b>	Non-Hispanic						1		1
<b>Grand Total</b>		336	9	58	14	1	42	2	462

### Transitional Housing Demographic Breakout

		Caucasian	Native American	African American	Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Multi-Racial	Client refused	Grand Total
<b>Male</b>	Hispanic	2					3	1	6
	Non-Hispanic	18		10		2	2		32
<b>Female</b>	Hispanic	4	1						5
	Non-Hispanic	26		13			3		42
<b>Transgender</b>	Non-Hispanic	1							1
<b>Client refused</b>	Non-Hispanic			3					3
<b>Grand Total</b>		51	1	26		2	8	1	89

### Combined Sheltered Demographics

		Caucasian	Native American	African American	Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Multi-Racial	Client refused	Grand Total
<b>Male</b>	Hispanic	30		2			5	2	39
	Non-Hispanic	174	4	47	9	3	16		253
<b>Female</b>	Hispanic	42	4	3			5	1	55
	Non-Hispanic	140	2	29	5		23		199
<b>Transgender</b>	Non-Hispanic	1					1		2
<b>Client refused</b>	Non-Hispanic			3					3
<b>Grand Total</b>		387	10	84	14	3	50	3	551

## Snohomish County Census Demographics

The last national census was completed in 2010, with the next scheduled for 2020. The United States Census Bureau publishes some estimated demographic data for non-census years. Year 2015 is the latest public dataset available. Last year's PIT report utilized the 2014 public dataset. A comparison of condensed 2017 sheltered data from the previous page, versus the 2010 complete census, 2014 and 2015 census estimates are displayed here.

Race & Ethnicity	Snohomish County Census			Sheltered
	2010	2014	2015	2017
Caucasian	78.4%	80.2%	78.8%	70.2%
Native American	1.4%	1.6%	1.0%	1.8%
African American	2.6%	3.1%	2.6%	15.3%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	2.5%
Asian	8.9%	10.2%	9.5%	0.5%
Multi-Racial	4.6%	4.4%	5.3%	9.1%
Unknown race	3.8%			0.5%
Hispanic	9.0%		9.5%	17.1%
Non-Hispanic	91.0%		90.5%	82.9%
Unknown ethnicity				0.0%

## Section IV: Veteran Summary, Unsheltered 2017 PIT Count Data

This year's count surveyed **44** unsheltered persons who self-identify as a military veteran.

**Eleven** reported sleeping out of doors in Everett. No veterans this year reported sleeping in an abandoned building.

Of the 27 veterans who slept out of doors the night prior, **3** were female.

Veterans ranged in age from 24 to 72 years of age with an average age of 50.

	Out of doors	Vehicle	Grand Total
Arlington	4	2	6
Everett	11	4	15
Gold Bar	1	2	3
Granite Falls	1	3	4
Lynnwood	1	1	2
Marysville	4	2	6
Monroe	2	2	4
Mountlake Terrace	1		1
Snohomish	2	1	3
Grand Total	27	17	44

Gender	Ethnicity	Caucasian	Multi-racial	Native American	Unknown	Grand Total
Male	Hispanic	2		1		3
	Non-Hispanic	25	2	4		31
	Unknown Ethnicity	1			1	2
Female	Non-Hispanic	5	2	1		8
Grand Total		33	4	6	1	44

### Causes of Homelessness

While 15 different responses were given, the 2 most common were job loss (**18**) and substance use (**14**). Closely related with an equal number of responses were eviction, family crisis/breakup, and lack of affordable units (**13**). The frequency and type of responses mirrors the general unsheltered population.

Discharged from an institution or jail	1
Domestic Violence	1
Drug or alcohol use	4
Eviction	6
Family crisis or break-up	5
Job loss	5
Lack of affordable rental units	2
Medical costs	2
Medical problems or issues	1
Temporary living situation ended	2
Transient on the road	1
No response	14
Grand Total	44

However, when respondents are asked to identify a *primary* cause – eviction, job loss, and family crisis are given as the top reasons. This differs slightly from the general unsheltered population who stated substance use, followed by job loss and family crisis. There were 14 out of 44 veterans (31.8%) who did not choose a primary cause of homelessness.

Of the 44 unsheltered veterans, **28** (63.6%) were chronically homeless in 2017.

A veteran household was unsheltered, with children.

## Section V: Veteran Summary, Sheltered 2017 PIT Count Data

On the night of the PIT Count, 22 veterans were staying at 4 different emergency shelters. One shelter alone hosted 19 that night. One sheltered veteran was female. Two of the veterans staying in emergency shelter qualify as chronically homeless. Veterans ranged in age from 35 to 65 years with an average of **51.4 years**.

		Caucasian	African American	Grand Total
Non-Hispanic	Male	16	5	21
	Female	1		1
Grand Total		17	5	22

### Veteran Families

While most veterans who presented for services were single men, **2** households with children were sheltered. One was a single mother in her 30s with three children. The other family was led by a single father in his 40s with two children.

### Barriers Faced by Veterans

Of the 22 veterans in emergency shelter, **12** reported at least one barrier.

- 4 veterans reported a serious mental illness.
- 3 reported alcohol or drug abuse.
- 2 reported a chronic health condition.
- 1 reported a physical disability
- 2 were non-specific.

**One** veteran had a co-occurring disorder of mental health and substance abuse.

### Days Spent Homeless

According to HMIS on the night of the PIT, veterans in emergency shelter had been homeless for between 1 and 967 days, with an average of **188 days**.

### Number of Homeless Veterans – 5 Year Trend

Under the guidance of Opening Doors<sup>18</sup>, Snohomish County continues to sustain functional zero status on veteran homelessness. Veteran specific prevention and rapid-rehousing programs are offered, along with newly funded solutions. Sebastian Place, a 20 unit apartment complex dedicated to solely to house and provide supportive services to homeless veterans has opened. A low barrier veteran shelter program also began providing emergency shelter in conjunction with services.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sheltered Vets	33	30	32	22	22
Unsheltered Vets	31	35	32	36	44
Total Vets	64	65	64	58	66

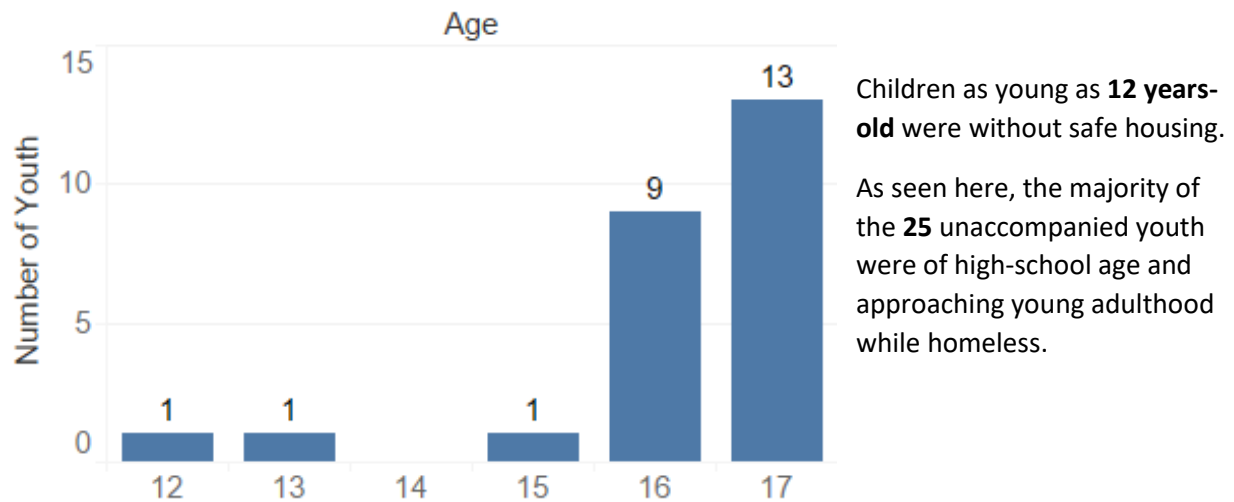
<sup>18</sup> *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. Retrieved from [https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/USICH\\_OpeningDoors\\_Amendment2015\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf)

## Section VI: Youth & Young Adult Summary, 2017 PIT Count Data

### All Unaccompanied Children (17 & Under)

On the night of the count, **9** children were living alone and unsheltered. An additional **16** children were unaccompanied and enrolled in an emergency shelter (8) or transitional housing (8) program. Due to this small homeless sub-population sample size of **25** unaccompanied children, the two data sets of sheltered & unsheltered were combined and explored below.

These data sets do not account for precariously housed or “couch surfing” youth and no determination can be made for the size of that population within the county.



Demographics data found that unaccompanied children were typically non-Hispanic and Caucasian. Males and females were equally represented with no youth identifying as a non-binary gender.

		Caucasian	Native American	African American	Asian	Multi-Racial	Grand Total
Male	Non-Hispanic	8		2	1	1	12
	Unknown	1					1
Female	Non-Hispanic	6		1			7
	Hispanic	3	1	1			5
Grand Total		18	1	4	1	1	25

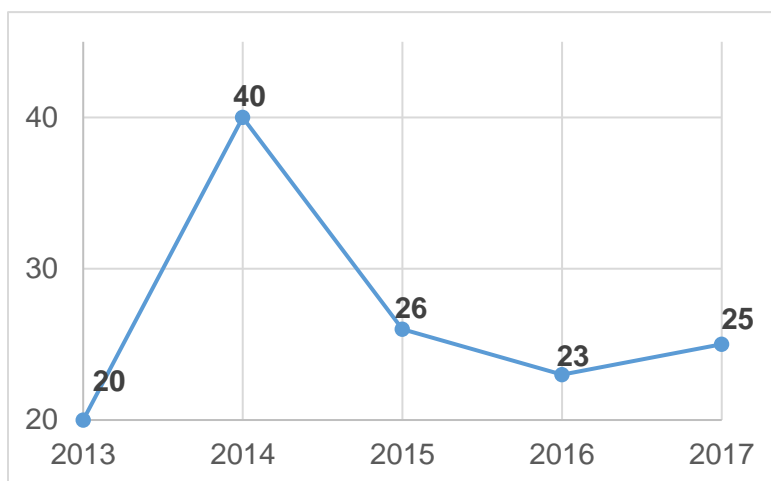
Volunteer survey takers did find that slightly more than half of the 9 child respondents who were not enrolled in a sheltered program, reported sleeping outside the night prior. The other unsheltered respondents sought refuge in a vehicle or abandoned building. These 9 unsheltered respondents were asked the main reason for their homelessness. Only 5 gave a response to reason for homelessness. Out of home youth status and the presence of youth mental illness were cited.

Sheltered youth are not asked these same questions upon program enrollment. Given the small unsheltered sample size (**9**), these findings while interesting, are not indicative of trends.

Male	No response	2
	Mental illness	1
	Out of home youth	3
Female	No response	2
	Mental illness	1
Grand Total		9

### Unaccompanied Children ages 12-17

Sheltered and unsheltered children, who are presenting for services without a guardian. These totals do not include parenting youth nor youth who are precariously housed.



### Unsheltered Unaccompanied Young Adults (18-24)

HUD requests data breakouts on specific homeless subpopulations of concern, including young adults. Data on this subpopulation is important as it aids the creation of prevention strategies designed to break the cycle of continued adult homelessness. This age group typically lacks life experience, resources, education, and job skills – creating additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Male	Out of doors	21
	Vehicle	12
	Abandoned building	1
Female	Out of doors	10
	Vehicle	4
	Abandoned building	1
Other*	Out of doors	1
Grand Total		50

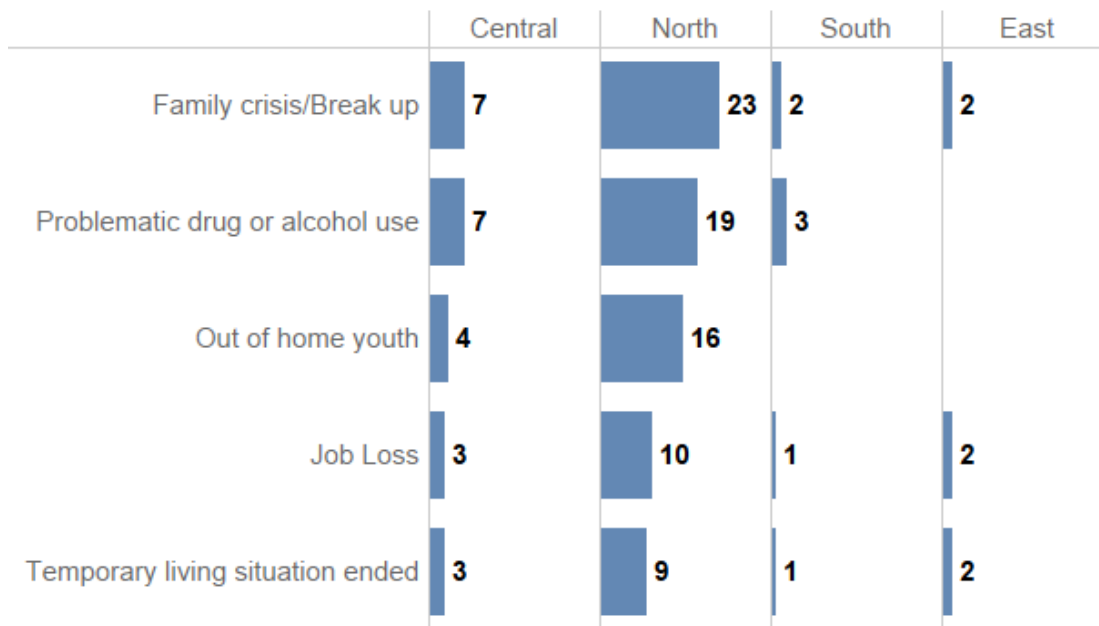
Surveys from **50** unaccompanied young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 were collected. Of those, **32** (64%) of these persons had stayed out of doors the night prior. An additional 32% had slept in a vehicle.

		Caucasian	Native American	African American	Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Multi-racial	Grand Total
Male	Hispanic	2	2	1			5
	Non-Hispanic	25	1	2		1	29
Female	Hispanic	2		1			3
	Non-Hispanic	9			1		10
	Unknown ethnicity	2					2
Other*	Unknown ethnicity	1					1
Grand Total		41	3	4	1	1	50

\*“Does not identify as male, female, or transgender”.

### Reasons for Homelessness – Unsheltered Young Adults

Young adults were asked to identify all factors which contributed to their homelessness. Unlike previous surveys, responses were not limited to the “top three” reasons. Four of these responses closely align with the top five reasons reported by the general unsheltered population (see page 8). Interestingly the majority of young adult responses came from the North quadrant whereas the majority of general population responses came from the Central and North.



When asked the main reason for their homelessness, 41 out of 50 young adults gave a response. Of the responses given, drug or alcohol use was the most cited at 39% (16).

	Male	Female	Other*	Grand Total
18 - 24 No response	8	1		9
Aged out of foster care		1		1
Drug or alcohol use	11	5		16
Eviction	1	2		3
Family crisis or break-up	4	2		6
Job loss	3			3
Lack of affordable rental units		1		1
Medical problems or issues	2			2
Mental illness		1		1
Out of home youth	5	2		7
Temporary living situation ended			1	1
Grand Total	34	15	1	50

\* “Does not identify as male, female, or transgender”.



### Sheltered Unaccompanied Young Adults (18-24)

On the night of the PIT **36** unaccompanied young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 were homeless and sheltered. These enrollments were weighted toward transitional housing with 27 total and comprised 30% of all transitional housing enrollments systems wide.

Demographics of young adults were also reflective of the greater homeless and County populations in general.

Age	Shelter	Transitional Housing
18		4
19		3
20		1
21	2	3
22	1	
23	4	16
24	2	
Grand Total	9	27

		Caucasian	African American	Asian	Multi-Racial	Client refused	Grand Total
<b>Male</b>	Hispanic	1				1	2
	Non-Hispanic	14	1	1			16
<b>Female</b>	Hispanic	3					3
	Non-Hispanic	11	2		1		14
<b>Transgender</b>	Non-Hispanic	1					1
<b>Grand Total</b>		30	3	1	1	1	36

### Youth & Young Adult Parents

This is the third year in which data on the number of parenting youth<sup>19</sup> were collected and reported to HUD. This subpopulation number is calculated separately from unaccompanied youth numbers above. Ten parenting youth households were identified.

Emergency shelter - there were **4** female young adult parents between the ages of 18 and 24. All four young women were Caucasian and two were chronically homeless. Within these four households were **7** dependent children total.

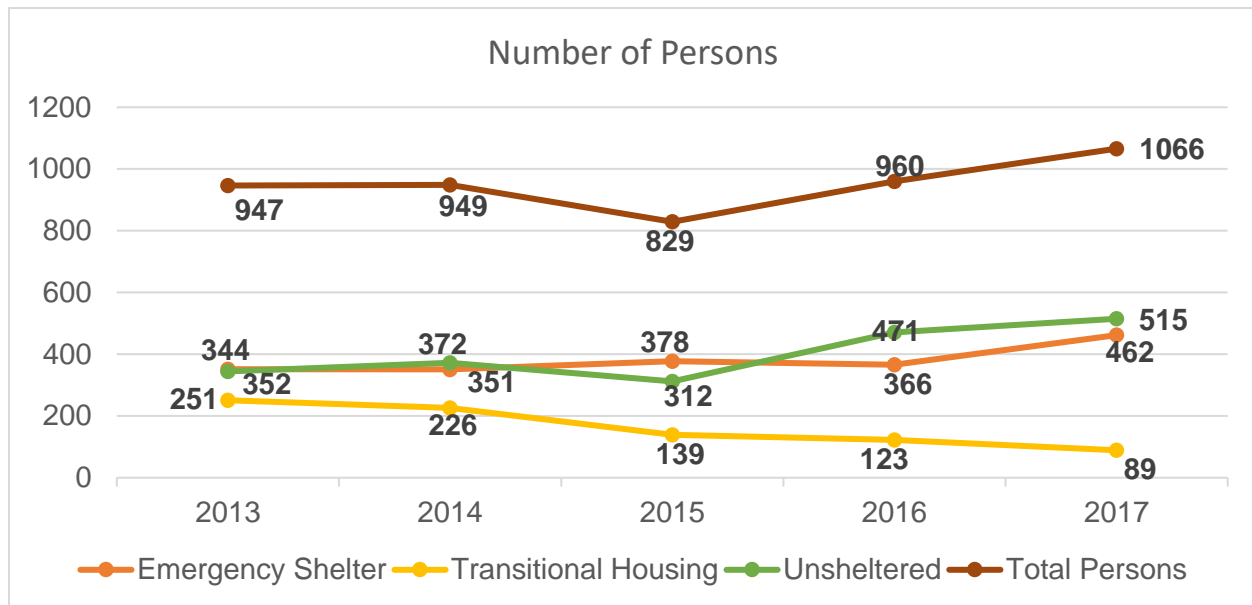
Transitional housing – **5** female-led parenting households were enrolled in transitional housing programs. Three of these 5 parents were under the age of 18.

Unsheltered – **One** unsheltered female above the age of 18 was surveyed. **Two** dependent children were in the household, all were chronically homeless.

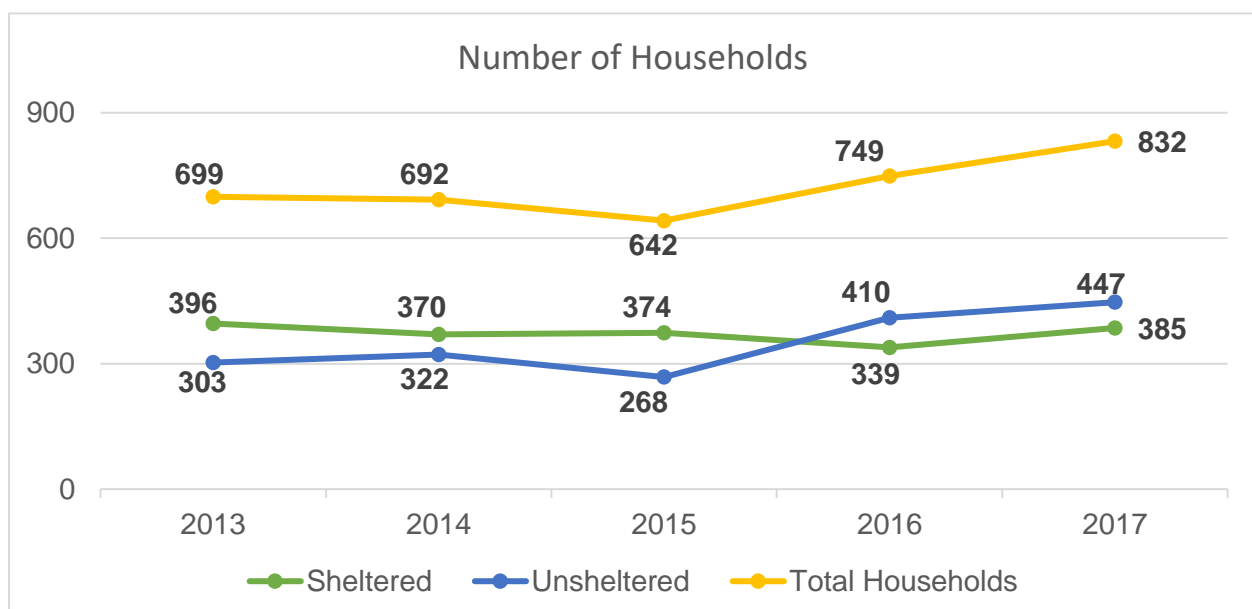
<sup>19</sup> *Parenting youth* – youth who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as the youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

## Section VII: Annual PIT Count Trends

Since 2013, persons in transitional housing have been considered homeless by HUD, whereas persons in permanent housing are not. Annual trend data includes persons and households in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and unsheltered situations.



Transitional Housing program enrollments continue to decline as agencies review existing programs for cost effectiveness, performance, and eligibility criteria. Agencies are pivoting toward a focus on permanent housing solutions, with rapid rehousing services. These services lower barriers to housing for households living in emergency shelter or in a place not meant for human habitation; by identifying housing options, providing rent assistance, and case management. Households placed in permanent housing are not included in the Point-in-Time count.



## 2017 Point in Time Summary

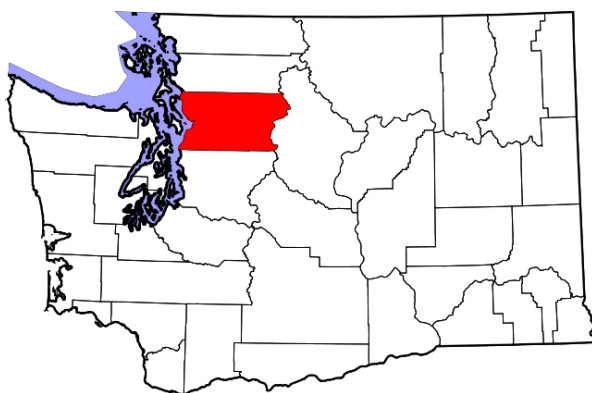
The west side of Washington State continues to see growth through population increase through immigration, new infrastructure and jobs. Snohomish County is responsible for 1/8<sup>th</sup> (12.5%) of the entire state's growth, while seeing 2% annual population gains. Everett is now the state's 7<sup>th</sup> largest city and outlying areas are seeing new development.

Data collected, while not a complete census shows that the majority of homeless persons encountered are from Snohomish County. They continue to face housing crises related to job loss, familial issues, substance abuse, and a lack of affordable housing units.

After reviewing all available data of persons in Snohomish County, a picture of homelessness emerges. Outliers exist, however persons living in a shelter program or unsheltered out of doors are statistically likely to be a white male in their mid-30s who never served in the military. They are also single, childless, disabled, and became homeless after losing their job.

Snohomish County has seen a 9% increase in the number of homeless surveyed over the year prior and a 49.7% increase over the last five years. However there are positives within those numbers. Veteran homelessness is nearing functional zero. Of 515 surveys collected this year, very few were children. Just 9 (0.02%) were unaccompanied children living unsheltered. Another 16 unaccompanied children had enrolled in shelter programs, comprising just 0.03% of enrollments. There was a net gain of 32 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units in 2016 and 101 new persons were housed in PSH, up from 42 in 2015. This year an additional 466 beds are dedicated and will be filled by chronically homeless persons as they become available, at a rate estimated to be 80 a year.

The availability of housing with lower barriers to entry, supplemented by supportive services have increased this year. Guidance to increase efficiency and effectiveness continues as programs are further analyzed. Implementation of these strategies over time will continue to enhance community response and reduce homelessness in Snohomish County.



## Questions about homelessness in Snohomish County?

Requests for additional information may be sent to:

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